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AUTHOR	Walden, Charles
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ABSTRACT

A comparison of major city school systems in 10 Southern States shows clearly that Louisville has the worst record in both student and faculty segregation. And the very high ratio of black students to black teachers shows that Louisville trails all the other 11 systems in this study in the vital area of hiring black teachers. Four comparisons show just how far Louisville has fallen behind the rest. (1) In 1968, only three of the 11 city school systems included in this report had less segregation of elementary school students than Louisville. Today all have less segregation than Louisville. (2) In 1968, six systems had less segregation of junior high school students than Louisville. Today, all have less segregation than Louisville. (3) In 1968 three systems had less segregation of senior high school students than Louisville. Today, only Atlanta has more segregation. (4) In 1968, only two systems had less segregation of elementary school teachers. Today, all have less segregation than Louisville. There is no evidence that the disparity in curriculum and programs that does exist in Louisville's segregated educational facilities today does not limit educational opportunities for black students. (Author/JM)

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Southern cities -except Louisville- desegregate schools

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A Report on Public Schools

In Louisville, Kentucky

And Major Southern Cities

1968 and 1971

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
600 West Walnut
Louisville, Kentucky 40203

UD 012954

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
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Under the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966, KRS 344.190 (11), the Commission has the duty "/t/o make studies appropriate to effectuate the purposes and policies of this chapter and to make the results thereof available to the public."

This report was prepared by Charles Walden, Research Specialist. Layout and charts by Darla S. Hatter.

For information and assistance, call, write or visit one of these offices:

MAIN OFFICES:

26 Capitol Annex Building
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: (502) 564-3550

600 West Walnut Street
Mammoth Life Building
Louisville, Kentucky 40203
Phone: (502) 583-2775

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THE LOUISVILLE LAG

A comparison of major city school systems in 10 Southern states shows clearly that Louisville has the worse record in both student and faculty segregation. And the very high ratio of black students to black teachers shows that Louisville trails all the other 11 systems in this study in the vital area of hiring black teachers.

That means that Louisville is worse than Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Charlotte, North Carolina; Columbia, South Carolina; Jackson, Mississippi; Jacksonville, Florida; Little Rock, Arkansas; Nashville, Tennessee; Pontiac, Michigan; and Richmond, Virginia.

Federal court orders in many of the cities are an obvious factor but Louisvillians should be told that the degree of segregation is much greater in their city today than it was in either Charlotte, North Carolina, or in Pontiac, Michigan, BEFORE the decisive court action in those two cities.

Only Atlanta even comes close to the level of segregation in Louisville. And, Atlanta has improved its record over the past four years while the Louisville record--already bad--has taken a sharp turn for the worse.[1]

Four comparisons show just how far Louisville has fallen behind the rest:

1. In 1968, only three of the 11 city school systems included in this report had less segregation of elementary school students than Louisville. Today, all have less segregation than Louisville. (Chart I, page 7)

2. In 1968, six systems had less segregation of junior high school students than Louisville. Today, all have less segregation than Louisville. (Chart II, page 8)

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[1]Commission on Human Rights, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Louisville School System Retreats to Segregation: A report on Public Schools in Louisville, Kentucky, 1956-1971. March, 1972.

3. In 1968, three systems had less segregation of senior high school students than Louisville. Today, only Atlanta has more segregation. (Chart III, page 9)

4. In 1968, only two systems had less segregation of elementary school teachers. Today, all have less segregation than Louisville. (Chart IV, page 10)

Study after study from over the nation has shown that equal educational opportunities are not extended to black students within segregated systems. So, the degree of segregation is directly related to disparities in quality education. All the evidence is on the side of those who argue, as we do, that there has not and cannot be equality in education within a segregated system.

Blacks have suffered in the past from segregated educational facilities. There is no evidence that the disparity in curriculum and programs that does exist in Louisville today does not limit educational opportunities for black students. As an example, school officials readily admit that students attending the predominantly black high schools (Central, Male and Shawnee) do not have access to the full range of programs offered at Atherton High School (98.1 per cent white student body, 93.6 per cent white faculty).

LAG IN TEACHER HIRING

Look at the ratio of black students to black teachers and it is easy to see how far Louisville is behind other Southern cities. In Louisville, the ratio is 36 to 1, last among 16 school systems included in this phase of the study.

TABLE A
RATIO OF BLACK STUDENTS TO BLACK TEACHERS
FOR 16 CITY SCHOOL SYSTEMS, 1971-1972

System	Ratio	System	Ratio
1. Norfolk, Va.	21.9 to 1	9. Charlotte, N. C.	30.6 to 1
2. Greensboro, N. C.	26.2 to 1	10. Raleigh, N. C.	32.2 to 1
3. Atlanta, Ga.	28.1 to 1	11. Memphis, Tenn.	32.7 to 1
4. Tampa, Fla.	29.0 to 1	12. Jackson, Miss.	33.1 to 1
5. Richmond, Va.	29.2 to 1	13. Greenville, S. C.	33.2 to 1
6. Birmingham, Ala.	29.5 to 1	14. Pontiac, Mich.	34.0 to 1
7. Montgomery, Ala.	30.4 to 1	15. Little Rock, Ark.	34.7 to 1
8. Mobile, Ala.	30.4 to 1	16. LOUISVILLE, KY.	36.6 to 1

Louisville also is next to the last in the vital area of closing the gap in the number of black teachers (Tables B and C on page 4 and Graph I on page 5). Louisville started behind most and has not made any significant gain. In 1968, 30.8 per cent of the teachers in Louisville were Black. In 1971, the figure is only 31.3, a gain of only half of one per cent. During that same period, the black student population rose from 45.7 per cent in 1968 to 48.6 per cent in 1971. The result, in Louisville, is an even wider gap between the number of black teachers and the number of black students.

The comparative salary figures included in Table C indicate that Louisville is in a competitive position with the other systems included in this report.

Louisville school officials point out that they recruited at 54 colleges and universities last year, 28 of them predominantly Black. Comparative figures are not available from all other systems, but in a report on black teachers in the South from Race Relations Information Center[2], it is reported that Nashville recruited in 43 predominantly black schools in 1971 and that 20 of the 45 colleges visited by Chattanooga, Tennessee, officials are predominantly Black.

Louisville needs some 450 additional black teachers to bring the percentage of black teachers up to the percentage of black students. And the system needs more than 250 additional black teachers--this year--to reach the limited goals set by the system three years ago. City officials now say they hope to hire at least 100 black teachers before school starts this fall.

Charts I through III show just how dramatically Louisville is moving against the flow of desegregation in the South. Chart IV shows just how failure to follow court rulings elsewhere and failure to adopt guidelines set out by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has resulted in an obvious disparity in teacher assignments.

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[2]Robert W. Hooker. Displacement of Black Teachers in the Eleven Southern States. Race Relations Information Center, Nashville, Tennessee. December, 1970.

TABLE B

RATIO OF TEACHERS TO STUDENTS, BY RACE; AND PROPORTION OF WHITE RATIO TO BLACK RATIO FOR SELECTED CITIES, 1971

Districts	WHITE			BLACK			White Ratio / Black Ratio 1971
	Students	Teachers	Ratio	Students	Teachers	Ratio	
Louisville, Ky.	24,561	1,391	17.6	23,346	636	36.6	.482
Atlanta, Georgia	27,856	1,658	16.8	72,321	2,579	28.1	.598
Birmingham, Ala.	25,994	1,071	25.2	33,809	1,147	29.5	.855
Charlotte, N. C.	55,581	2,404	23.1	25,022	823	30.6	.754
Jackson, Miss.	10,594	776	13.6	19,067	575	33.1	.412
Jacksonville, Fla.	77,639	3,147	24.6	35,979	1,280	28.0	.878
Little Rock, Ark.	10,825	594	18.2	8,694	250	34.7	.522
Pontiac, Mich.	13,266	539	24.6	8,235	242	34.0	.724
Richmond, Va.	13,861	866	15.7	29,747	1,018	29.2	.537

TABLE C

BLACK PERCENTAGE OF FACULTIES FOR SELECTED CITIES, 1968 and 1971, CHANGE AND SALARIES

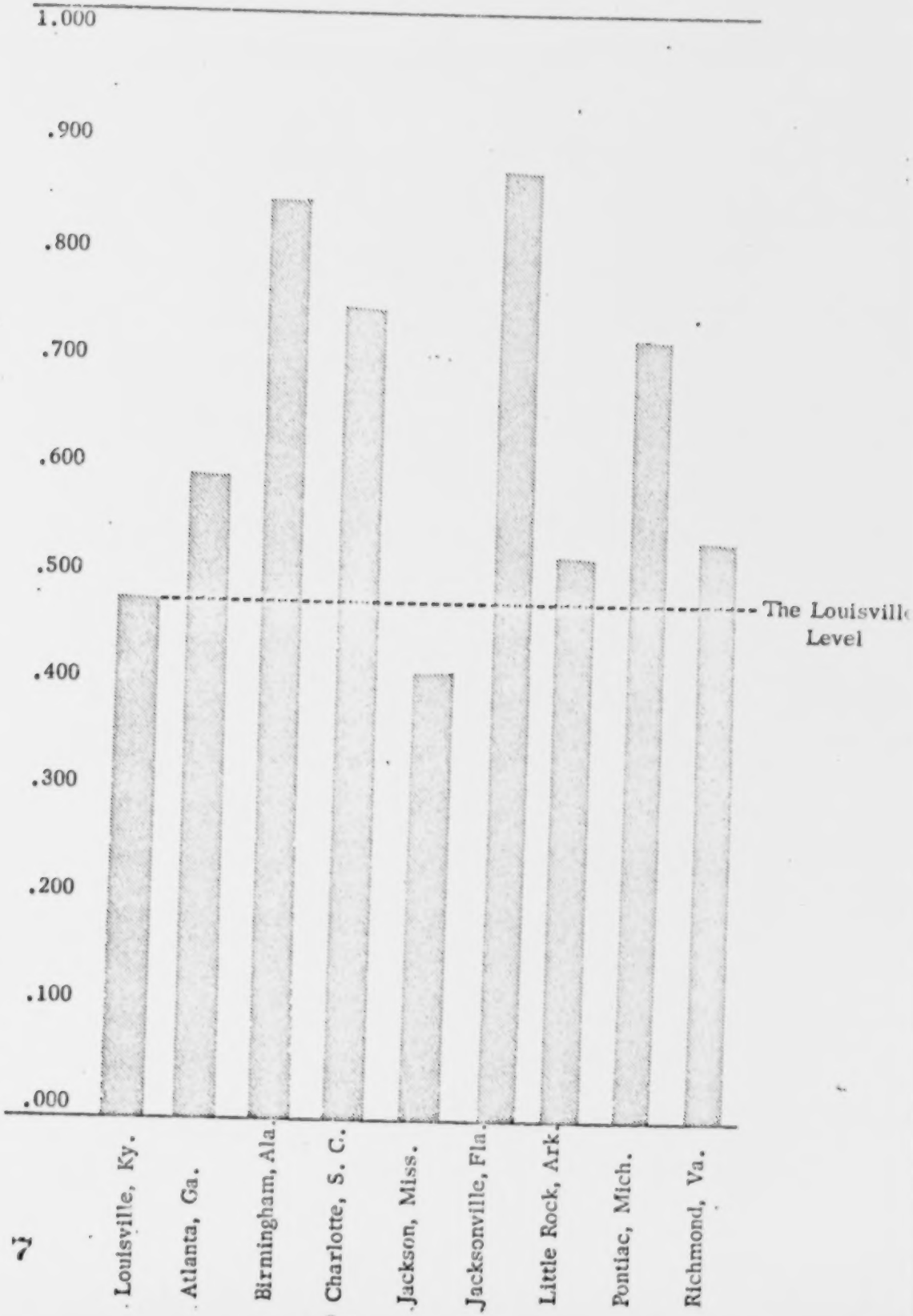
Cities	1968	1971	change in %	% change	Salaries * starting	Salaries * maximum
Louisville, Ky.	30.8	31.3	0.5	+ 1.6	$6,391	$10,226
Atlanta, Ga.	55.5	60.9	5.4	+ 9.7	7,300	10,660
Birmingham, Ala.	49.3	51.7	2.4	+ 4.9	6,444	8,352
Charlotte, N. C.	24.9	25.4	0.5	+ 2.0	7,005	10,357
Jackson, Miss.	41.8	42.5	0.7	+ 1.7	6,300	8,568
Jacksonville, Fla.	27.5	28.9	1.4	+ 5.1	6,800	9,800
Little Rock, Ark.	28.7	29.6	0.9	+ 3.1	5,800	6,670
Pontiac, Mich.	24.2	30.3	6.4	+25.4	a	a
Richmond, Va.	59.2	54.9	5.3	- 8.8	7,000	11,200

*Teachers with Bachelor's Degrees

[a]Comparative figures not available

GRAPH I

PROPORTION OF BLACK TEACHERS/BLACK STUDENTS TO WHITE TEACHERS/WHITE STUDENTS IN SELECTED CITIES, 1971



Looking at Chart I, page 7, the "o" lines indicate that Louisville was ahead of all but Charlotte, Columbia and Pontiac in the degree of elementary school desegregation in 1968. The "x" lines show that all 10 of the systems are ahead of Louisville in desegregation during the current school year.

Note, particularly the dramatic changes in both Charlotte and Pontiac, where federal court decisions resulted in sweeping changes. Note, also, that every system moved toward desegregation except for Louisville.

Louisville did show a slight decline in desegregation at the junior high level (Chart II, page 8) but again all other systems far outstripped efforts here. The Commission's earlier report on Louisville's retreat to segregation made it clear that most of the desegregation occurred in the predominantly white schools on the fringes of the inner city and that there actually was a decline in black attendance in the junior high schools attended by most middle class whites.

At the senior high school level (Chart III, page 9) only Louisville shows an increase in student segregation, up a full ten points. The gain in segregation in Louisville came at a time when dramatic improvements were made through most of the South and even some improvement in Atlanta. Compare the degree of segregation in Louisville high schools today (78.6) with that in Birmingham (12.4) and in Little Rock (5.1) and you get some idea of the different view our students are getting of their total society.

Chart IV, page 10 , deals only with teacher segregation at the elementary school level but it also reflects the conditions at the junior and senior high school levels. It shows how Louisville, following a plan that runs counter to federal court rulings and HEW guidelines, has moved far slower than other systems to achieve equal distribution of black teachers. Note, particularly the comparison between Louisville (45.4) and Charlotte (0.6) and you will get some of the current imbalances.

I. SEGREGATION INDEX, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

System	Year	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	actual seg. index
Louisville, Ky.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000				80.3
	1971	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	X			86.2
Atlanta, Georgia	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0	96.1
	1971	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXX				83.1
Birmingham, Alabama	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	00		92.8
	1971	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX					79.6
Charlotte, N.C.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000					79.6
	1971	XXXX	XXXX	X																		11.0
Columbia, S. C.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0						71.6
	1971	*																				
Jackson, Miss.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0	96.7
	1971	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX														35.4
Jacksonville, Florida	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000			89.8
	1971	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX								64.0
Little Rock, Arkansas	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000			89.8
	1971	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX						74.7
Nashville, Tenn.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000			85.1
	1971	*																				
Pontiac, Michigan	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0			80.1
	1971	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	X																21.1
Richmond, Va.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0	90.3
	1971	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XX																22.9

*Not available from HEW.

II. SEGREGATION INDEX, JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

System	Year	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	actual seg. index
Louisville, Ky.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	000						73.2
	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxxx							70.7
Atlanta, Georgia	1968	a																				
	1971	a																				
Birmingham, Alabama	1968	a																				
	1971	a																				
Charlotte, N. C.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	000							68.3
	1971	xxxx	xxx																			8.9
Columbia, S. C.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	00000							70.3
	1971	*																				
Jackson, Miss.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	000		98.1
	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xx													37.9
Jacksonville, Florida	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0						71.0
	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx											49.9
Little Rock, Arkansas	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0						71.2
	1971	xxx																				3.2
Nashville, Tenn.	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0							66.8
	1971	*																				
Pontiac, Michigan	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	00								62.8
	1971	x																				1.7
Richmond, Virginia	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	000						73.7
	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xx														

[a]Included in high schools.
*Not available from HEW.

III. SEGREGATION INDEX, SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

System	Year	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	actual seg. index
Louisville,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	000							68.6
Ky.	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx					78.6
Atlanta,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000			89.1
Georgia	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx				83.4
Birmingham,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	00			87.7
Alabama	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxxx								65.3
Charlotte,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	000										53.3
N. C.	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xx																		12.4
Columbia,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	00000				80.9
S. C.	1971	*																				
Jackson,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0	96.6
Miss.	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx													39.0
Jacksonville,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	00000			90.8
Florida	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	x									56.3
Little Rock,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000										54.7
Arkansas	1971	xxxxx																				5.1
Nashville,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	00						72.8
Tenn.	1971	*																				
Pontiac,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0													36.2
Michigan	1971	xxxx	xx																			7.8
Richmond,	1968	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	00000				80.4
Va.	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xx														32.9

*Not available from HEW.

V. SEGREGATION INDEX, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

System	Year	5	10	5	20	5	30	5	40	5	50	5	60	5	70	5	80	5	90	5	100	actual seg. index
Louisville, Ky.	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	o							71.2
	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxxx												45.4
Atlanta, Georgia	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo					79.4
	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx																	19.4
Birmingham, Alabama	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo				84.3
	1971	xxxxx																				5.6
Charlotte, N. C.	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	ooooo						75.5
	1971																					0.6
Columbia, S. C.	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	ooooo			90.5
	1971	*																				
Jackson, Miss.	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	99.1
	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xx																		12.0
Jacksonville, Florida	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo			89.7
	1971	xxxx	xx																			7.3
Little Rock, Arkansas	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	ooooo								65.8
	1971	xxxx	xxxx	xx																		12.4
Nashville, Tenn.	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	o						76.1
	1971	*																				
Pontiac, Michigan	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	o													36.5
	1971	xxxx	xxxxx																			10.7
Richmond, Va.	1968	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oooo	oo				87.3
	1971	xxxx	xxx																			8.1

*Not available from HEW.

CONCLUSIONS

From these comparisons with other systems, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights can only conclude that the Louisville Board of Education has failed to take effective action to desegregate students and that the Louisville Board of Education is following a plan for teacher assignments that is not achieving the goals clearly laid down by the federal courts and by HEW.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This new evidence provides further arguments for the school board to move ahead, now, to implement the recommendations set forth in the Commission's earlier report, Louisville Schools Retreat to Segregation.